

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method of intercepting a transaction instantiated by a database
2 application to determine if an electronic signature is necessary to commit the
3 transaction to the database, the method comprising:

4 in response to a triggering action generated by the database application,
5 calling an application program interface to raise an event;

6 initiating a workflow process that executes a rule to determine if an
7 electronic signature is required to approve the transaction; and

8 if execution of the rule results in a determination that an electronic
9 signature is required for the transaction, instantiating a signature collection process.

1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the application program interface
2 comprises an event name and an event id.

1 3. The method of claim 1 wherein the signature collection process
2 can be either a synchronous collection process or an asynchronous collection process.

1 4. The method of claim 3 wherein the application program interface
2 comprises an event name, an event id and an indication of whether the signature
3 collection process is a synchronous process or an asynchronous process.

1 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the workflow process generates
2 an electronic record that captures data associated with the transaction.

1 6. The method of claim 5 wherein the electronic comprises
2 unstructured data.

1 7. The method of claim 6 wherein the unstructured data comprises
2 XML data stored in character large object (CLOB) format.

1 8. The method of claim 7 wherein the XML data comprises a first
2 well-formed XML document that comprises XML fields generated from a mapping to
3 fields in a database and a second well-formed XML document that comprises the
4 electronic record as it is displayed to a user during the signature collection process.

1 9. The method of claim 5 further comprising:
2 obtaining an electronic signature in response to the signature collection
3 process; and
4 thereafter, verifying the electronic signature and, if the electronic
5 signature is verified, updating a field of the electronic record to indicate a valid
6 signature was received.

1 10. The method of claim 9 further comprising committing the
2 transaction to the database if the electronic signature is verified.

1 11. A computer system for searching unstructured data stored in a
2 database, the computer system comprising:
3 a processor;
4 a database; and
5 a computer-readable memory coupled to the processor, the computer-
6 readable memory configured to store a computer program;
7 wherein the processor is operative with the computer program to:
8 (i) call an application program interface to raise an event in response to
9 a triggering action generated by the database application;
10 (ii) initiate a workflow process that executes a rule to determine if an
11 electronic signature is required to approve the transaction; and
12 (iii) instantiate a signature collection process if execution of the rule
13 results in a determination that an electronic signature is required for the transaction.

1 11. The computer system of claim 10 wherein the application
2 program interface comprises an event name and an event id.

1 12. The computer system of claim 10 wherein the signature
2 collection process can be either a synchronous collection process or an asynchronous
3 collection process.

1 13. The computer system of claim 10 wherein the workflow process
2 generates an electronic record that captures data associated with the transaction.

1 14. The computer system of claim 13 wherein the electronic
2 comprises unstructured data.

1 15. The computer system of claim 14 wherein the unstructured data
2 comprises XML data stored in character large object (CLOB) format.

1 16. The computer system of claim 15 wherein the XML data
2 comprises a first well-formed XML document that comprises XML fields generated
3 from a mapping to fields in a database and a second well-formed XML document that
4 comprises the electronic record as it is displayed to a user during the signature
5 collection process.

1 17. The computer system of claim 10 further comprising:
2 obtaining an electronic signature in response to the signature collection
3 process; and
4 thereafter, verifying the electronic signature and, if the electronic
5 signature is verified, updating a field of the electronic record to indicate a valid
6 signature was received.

1 18. The computer system of claim 10 wherein the processor is
2 further operative with the computer program to commit the transaction to the database
3 if the electronic signature is verified.

1 19. A computer program stored on a computer-readable storage
2 medium for searching unstructured data stored in a database, the computer program
3 comprising:
4 code for calling an application program interface to raise an event in
5 response to a triggering action generated by the database application;
6 code for initiating a workflow process that executes a rule to determine
7 if an electronic signature is required to approve the transaction; and
8 code for instantiating a signature collection process if execution of the
9 rule results in a determination that an electronic signature is required for the
10 transaction.

1 20. The computer program of claim 19 wherein the workflow
2 process generates an electronic record that captures data associated with the transaction.

1 21. The computer program of claim 19 wherein the electronic
2 comprises unstructured data.

1 22. The computer program of claim 21 wherein the unstructured data
2 comprises XML data stored in character large object (CLOB) format.

1 23. The computer program of claim 22 wherein the XML data
2 comprises a first well-formed XML document that comprises XML fields generated
3 from a mapping to fields in a database and a second well-formed XML document that
4 comprises the electronic record as it is displayed to a user during the signature
5 collection process.